Express' dated July 1, 1996 captioned, "Infrastructural problems cripple telephone services":

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details are enclosed in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

The gap between the demand and supply of telephones over the years has drastically reduced. In the first four years of 8th Plan additional capacity of 61.68 lakh lines has been created for reducing the waiting list drastically. In fact barring a few pockets, the OYT connections are current. To accelerate the momentum of providing telephones to all villages, Government under National Telecom Policy 1994 has allowed participation by private operators to provide value added services and basic services.

Development of Telecom Network on such a massive scale involves installation of exchanges and heavy cable laying. In Delhi two lakh subscribers have been given connections during 1995-96. Only in a few places the release of connections was delayed due to non-availability of cable pairs. In such cases prompt action is taken to solve the problems by using pair gain system. Release of connections are reviewed at the higher level and continuous efforts are made to improve the services.

Benefits Under Public Distribution System

1842 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a recent survey only 36% families are benefited by the public distribution system in the rural areas and 40% of the total foodgrains are bring supplied to urban areas for the public distribution system where only 26% people live;

(b) if so, the justification thereof;

(c) if not, the facts thereof;

(d) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to remedy the situation;

(e) the percentage of rural and urban families benefited by the public distribution system separately, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(f) the quantity of foodgrains being sold through public distribution system in urban and rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir, as per a survey by National Council of Applied Economic Research.

(b) to (f). Under the joint responsibility, the Central Government make available rice, wheat, sugar, SKO, soft coke/CIL coke and edible oil in bulk to States/UTs, whereas the operational responsibility of implementing the PDS including distribution in rural and urban areas is of the State Government/UT Administration. The Central Government does not maintain details of the percentage of rural and urban families benefited by PDS as well as the quantities sold through PDS in urban and rural areas respectively.

The strengthening and streamlining of the PDS is a continuous process. Matters relating to improving the functioning of PDS are discussed with State Governments in various fora like regional meetings, Advisory Council meetings etc. The Central Government also monitors and progress of RPDS in various States/UTs through periodical reports.

[English]

Dropping of Doordarshan

1843 SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telecast of a number of scheduled programmes of Doordarshan, Delhi have been dropped during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reactions therefor; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the programmes were dropped.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Programmes of Doordarshan are generally telecast as scheduled. However, at times, it becomes necessary to either drop or to reschedule the programmes to accommodate programmes of national and international importance. Some programmes could not be telecast as per schedule because of live telecast/coverage of events like International Film Festival, Wills Cup Cricket matches, Euro Cup, Atlanta Olympics, French Open, Wimbledon 96, Swearing in ceremony of Council of Ministers and state mourning etc.